

Section 1

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The Legislature established the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) in 1998 to provide advice, strategic direction, and accountability on information technology investments in the state. Section 86-516 directs the NITC to “annually update a statewide technology plan.” *Nebraska’s Statewide Technology Plan* for 2003 is the fourth iteration. The complete plan is available on the NITC Web site (www.nitc.state.ne.us).

To achieve its mandate, the NITC relies on coordination and collaboration to influence a wide range of information technology issues. The NITC has neither operational authority nor enforcement powers for implementing its policy directives. The NITC has adhered to the legislative directive in Section 86-513 to “coordinate the state’s investment in information technology in an efficient and expeditious manner. The provisions (of Sections 86-512 to 86-524) are not intended to impede the rapid deployment of appropriate technology or establish cumbersome regulations or bureaucracy.”

Given these considerations, the purpose of the *Statewide Technology Plan* is to set forth the vision and goals for the use of information technology in Nebraska, with a set of action items that will guide the work of the NITC and its councils. The *Statewide Technology Plan* does not allocate funding among technology projects. A different report, “Recommendations on Technology Investments to the Governor and Legislature” (<http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/docs/2002report/budgetreport.pdf>), provides advice on proposed funding for technology projects, as part of the biennial budget process.

Previous versions of the *Statewide Technology Plan* included two other sections. One was the Technical Infrastructure, which defined a technical architecture and the process for preparing technical standards and guidelines. The other section set forth planning and project management requirements. In the interests of brevity, these sections are now presented as separate documents. Both are located on the NITC Web site. Both are incorporated into the *Statewide Technology Plan* by reference.

The NITC conducts most of its work through three advisory groups and the Technical Panel.

The Community Council has 18-24 members from each of its three focus areas (rural and community information technology development, local governments and libraries, and telehealth), resource providers, and other groups as deemed appropriate by the Community Council and the NITC. The Community Council focuses on the role of information technology in community and economic development. It seeks to foster the collaborative and innovative use of technology through partnerships between public and private sectors, to improve teleliteracy, and to support community and economic development for Nebraska citizens.

The Education Council has 16 members, eight representing the K-12 sector, eight representing the postsecondary sector, and four liaisons as representatives of the Department of Education, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, the Department of Administrative Services, and the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission. The Education Council works on common areas of interest in the use of information technology across all sectors of education from elementary through postsecondary levels and including public and private institutions. The Education Council advises the NITC on education information technology needs, goals, and policy. The Council identifies, coordinates, and prioritizes matters pertaining to information technology for a more strategic and cost-effective approach to developing the State's education information technology infrastructure.

The State Government Council has 24 members representing state agencies and 2 members chosen from the private sector, with experience in managing major information technology systems. The mission of the State Government Council is to provide direction and oversight for state government information technology vision, goals and policy. It promotes collaboration on technology issues among state agencies.

The Technical Panel is a statutory body, which provides technical analysis and recommendations to the Commission. The Technical Panel is codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1511. It consists of seven members appointed by the Commission. The mission of the Technical Panel is to assist in the development of a statewide technical infrastructure that will be scalable, reliable, and efficient, including a shared statewide telecommunications network. It provides technical analysis of projects and recommends technical standards and guidelines.

Each of the councils and the Technical Panel has a charter, adopted by the NITC, which establishes the council membership, responsibilities, and meeting procedures. Charters, proceedings, and other information are available on the NITC Web site.

The NITC also recognizes the important contributions of other information technology coordinating entities, such as the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Advisory Committee, and the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Steering Committee. The CJIS Advisory Committee includes representatives of state and local agencies involved in all aspects of criminal justice. It conducts strategic planning and sponsors automation and data sharing projects. Further information about the CJIS Advisory Committee is available at <http://www.cjis.state.ne.us/>. The Legislature established the GIS Steering Committee in 1991 (Sections 81-2601 through 81-2605), in an effort to coordinate the implementation of GIS technology by state and local governments in Nebraska. Membership on the GIS Steering Committee includes local, state, and federal representatives. Further information about the GIS Steering Committee is available at <http://www.calmit.unl.edu/gis/>.

The NITC encourages other information technology coordinating entities to collaborate with the NITC and its advisory councils.

The vision of the NITC is to improve the quality of life of all Nebraskans by promoting the use of information technology in education, health care, economic development and all levels of government. To achieve this vision, the NITC has identified four goals:

1. **Support the development of a robust statewide telecommunications infrastructure that is scalable, reliable, and efficient;**
2. **Support the use of information technology to enhance community and economic development;**
3. **Promote the use of information technology to improve the efficiency and delivery of governmental and educational services, including homeland security;**
4. **Promote effective planning, management and accountability regarding the state's investments in information technology.**

Section 2 of the *Statewide Technology Plan* presents detailed objectives.

Section 3 provides a list of action items that the NITC Councils and Technical Panel will undertake to achieve the goals and objectives. Some of the action items include:

Telecommunications Infrastructure

- Bandwidth Aggregation /NETCOM (led by the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership, with advice from the Network Policy Work Group and the Network Architecture Work Group)
- Statewide Synchronous Video Network Implementation Planning
- Statewide Telehealth Network Development

Community and Economic Development

- Encouragement and support technology-related development
- Grants and support for community IT planning

Delivery of Government and Educational Services

- E-Government Strategic Plan (Business Portal, Citizen Portal, Education Portal, and Infrastructure improvements)
- Nebraska eLearning Initiative
- E-mail standard for state government
- Juvenile data sharing

Planning and Accountability

- Security Policies and Procedures
 - Security standards, guidelines and best practices
 - Security assessments
 - Secure communications
 - Directory Services
- Project reviews

Section 4 is a status report of what has been accomplished to date, with effectiveness measures to evaluate progress in the future.